

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 3-5 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 6-18 are pending in the application. Original claims 1-5 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 6-14. Claims 15-18 have also been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The Abstract has been revised in compliance with US patent practice. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The *35 U.S.C. 103(a)* rejection of claims 1-2 as being obvious over JP-8-97058 (hereinafter "JP 058") in view of Mura (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,529) is moot as claims 1-2 have been cancelled.

New independent claim 6 includes, in the last paragraph, limitations of original claim 3 that is deemed to render original claim 3 patentable over the applied art of record, as indicated in the Office Action, paragraph 6, the last line. Accordingly, new claim 6 should be considered patentable. Claims 7-14 depend from claim 6 and are considered patentable not only by virtue of their dependency, but also on their own merits as will be apparent to the Examiner upon reviewing these claims.

New independent claim 15 requires, among other things, that an entirety of the casing, including said first and second compartments, be **integrally** made of insulating material. Applicants respectfully submit that the primary reference of JP 058 *cannot* be properly modified to include this feature.

JP 058 is directed to an ignitor's case which is designed to allow customization of the ignitor's circuit configuration with ease. In particular, the JP 058 case includes two *separate* cases (FIG. 1), i.e., a box-like case 10 in which a PCB is housed and a transformer case 20 accommodating a transformer. The transformer case 20 is linked to the box-like case 10 by tongue Ta and hole Pb as best seen in FIG. 2 of the reference. Accommodating the PCB and the transformer in separate cases allows the components to be replaced with ease. See the Abstract of JP 058 as well as paragraphs [0005] – [0008] and [0030] of attached Exhibit A which is a computer-generated translation of JP 058.

Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would *not* have been motivated to integrate the box-like case 10 and transformer case 20 of JP 058 into a single casing because the primary intended purpose of the reference would be defeated. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15 is patentable over the applied art of record. Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 and are considered patentable not only by virtue of their dependency, but also on their own merits as will be apparent to the Examiner upon reviewing these claims.

The other cited but not applied references are believed either irrelevant to the present invention or inapplicable against the claims of the instant application. Of particular note, U.S. Patents Nos. 6,429,606 and 6,506,047 are *not* prior art as their effective reference dates postdate the claimed priority date of the instant application.


Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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